

That which is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling usage of a mobile terminal, the method comprising:
 - receiving a usage specification including an identification of allowed numbers, an identification of restricted numbers, a usage time limitation, an expiration value and/or a specification of enabled services of the mobile terminal that are restricted; and
 - limiting usage of the mobile terminal based on the received usage specification responsive to receipt of a valid authorization code.
- 10 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the authorization code and/or the usage specification are received from a keypad and/or input screen of the mobile terminal.
- 15 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the authorization code and/or the usage specification are received from a remote user over a wireless communication connection.
- 20 4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the authorization code is received from a remote user over a wireless communication connection and wherein the authorization code is encoded to restrict viewing of the authorization code by a user of the mobile terminal.
- 25 5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the authorization code is a reset code and wherein the method further comprises over-riding the usage specification responsive to receipt of the reset code.
- 30 6. The method of Claim 5 wherein over-riding the usage specification comprises selecting an alternative usage specification responsive to receipt of the reset code.
7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the alternate usage specification includes no restrictions to return the mobile terminal to a normal operating mode.

8. The method of Claim 4 wherein the usage specification is received from a remote user over a wireless communication connection.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein receiving a usage specification 5 comprises:

accessing a usage controls menu of the mobile terminal;
prompting a user for entry of the authorization code;
verifying the authorization code;
providing a menu of usage restriction options to a user only if the 10 authorization code is verified as valid;
receiving a selection of restrictions from the user responsive to the provided menu; and
generating the usage specification responsive to the received selection of restrictions.

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10. The method of Claim 9 wherein receiving a selection of restrictions comprises receiving a disable request and wherein generating the usage specification comprises generating a usage specification that includes no restrictions to place the mobile terminal in a normal operating mode.

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11. The method of Claim 9 wherein receiving a selection of restrictions comprises receiving an identification of allowed numbers.

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12. The method of Claim 11 wherein providing a menu includes providing a listing of numbers from a phone book of the mobile terminal to a display of the mobile terminal and wherein receiving a selection of restrictions comprises receiving a designation of ones of the displayed listing of numbers.

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13. The method of Claim 11 wherein receiving a selection of restrictions comprises receiving an identification of restricted numbers.

14. The method of Claim 9 wherein receiving a selection of restrictions comprises receiving a specification of enabled services of the mobile terminal that are

restricted and wherein the specification of enabled services includes a restriction on internet access services of the mobile terminal.

15. The method of Claim 9 wherein receiving a selection of restrictions
5 comprises receiving a specification of enabled services of the mobile terminal that are restricted and wherein the specification of enabled services includes a restriction on placement of long distance calls and/or calls to specified area codes from the mobile terminal.

10 16. The method of Claim 15 wherein the specification of enabled services includes a restriction on placement of calls to specified area codes and wherein the restriction of placement of calls to specified area codes comprises a designation of allowed area codes for calls from the mobile terminal.

15 17. The method of Claim 9 wherein receiving a selection of restrictions comprises receiving a specification of enabled services of the mobile terminal that are restricted and wherein the specification of enabled services includes a restriction on placement of calls when the mobile terminal is in a roaming mode.

20 18. The method of Claim 1 wherein limiting usage of the mobile terminal further comprises allowing placement of emergency calls even if usage of the mobile terminal is otherwise restricted.

25 19. The method of Claim 1 wherein limiting usage of the mobile terminal further comprises allowing placement of calls to a specified number even if usage of the mobile terminal is otherwise restricted.

20. The method of Claim 1 wherein the usage time limitation includes a limitation on times of day when the mobile terminal may be used.

30 21. The method of Claim 1 wherein the usage time limitation includes a limitation on the duration of usage of the mobile terminal.

22. A usage control system for a mobile terminal, the system comprising:

a user interface circuit for receiving from a user an authorization code and a usage specification including an identification of allowed numbers, an identification of restricted numbers, a usage time limitation, an expiration value and/or a specification of enabled services of the mobile terminal that are restricted; and

5 an access circuit configured to limit usage of the mobile terminal based on the received usage specification responsive to receipt of a valid authorization code.

23. A mobile terminal including the usage control system of Claim 22.

10 24. The system of Claim 22 wherein the user interface includes a keypad and/or input screen of the mobile terminal.

15 25. The system of Claim 24 wherein the user interface further includes a transceiver configured to receive the authorization code and/or the usage specification from a remote user over a wireless communication connection.

26. The system of Claim 25 wherein the user interface is further configured to restrict viewing of the authorization code by a user of the mobile terminal.

20 27. The system of Claim 26 wherein the authorization code is a reset code and wherein the access circuit is further configured to over-ride the usage specification responsive to receipt of the reset code to return the mobile terminal to a normal operating mode.

25 28. The system of Claim 22 wherein the user interface further comprises: a usage controls menu of the mobile terminal; a menu of usage restriction options; and wherein the system further comprises a memory including an identification of 30 a valid authorization code and usage restriction options.

29. The system of Claim 28 wherein the user interface is further configured to retrieve a listing of numbers from a phone book of the mobile terminal and to display the listing of numbers on a screen of the mobile terminal responsive to

selection of an associated option on the menu of usage restriction options and to receive a designation of ones of the displayed listing of numbers to include in the usage specification.

5 30. A computer program product for controlling usage of a mobile terminal, the computer program product comprising:

 a computer-readable storage medium having computer-readable program code embodied in said medium, said computer-readable program code comprising:

10 computer-readable program code that receives a usage specification including an identification of allowed numbers, an identification of restricted numbers, a usage time limitation, an expiration value and/or a specification of enabled services of the mobile terminal that are restricted; and

15 computer-readable program code that limits usage of the mobile terminal based on the received usage specification responsive to receipt of a valid authorization code.